

January 2010 Weather in Review

The cold of early January 2010 was just one of a variety of other weather trends that affected the region in January 2010.

The trend of colder than usual cold fronts from December 2009 set the stage for colder temperatures to follow in January 2010 across South Central Texas. After a brief and quick warming trend on New Years Eve, when highs rose to the 70s, a late day cold front left colder weather for January 1st to the 3rd, that was followed by a wave of Arctic Air in the early morning hours of Monday, January 4th, leaving colder temperatures for the 4th and 5th. An additional wave of Arctic Air came the night of the 6th to early morning of January 7th, leaving even colder temperatures on January 7th to the 10th, that were the coldest for January 2010. The coldest lows for January 2010 came on the 9th, when lows fell to 10 at Austin Bergstrom, 17 at Austin Mabry, 13 at Burnet, 18 at Del Rio, 12 at Hondo, 14 at New Braunfels, 16 at San Antonio, and 17 at San Antonio Stinson.

Overrunning clouds the 12th, was followed by clouds and scattered rain the 13th. A storm system brought widespread rains late January 14th through the 15th and to the morning hours of January 16th. Scattered showers on Wednesday the 13th were followed by cloudy conditions the 14th that became foggy in the late morning to part of the afternoon. This was followed by more convective conditions that broke up the fog, followed by rains late in the day and evening of January 14th. Widespread 1 to 3 inch rains came with this winter rain making system from the evening of the 14th through day on Friday the 15th and to the morning of January 16th. Rainfall amounts of near 3 to 5 inches fell over parts of Kendall County to parts of Bexar and Atascosa County. The maximum rainfall was 5.32 inches at Leming in Atascosa County. This also set the stage for rainier weather trends to come later in the month and early February that originally began in March and April of 2009 and returned with more intensity in the Fall of 2009.

As the 2nd half of the month unfolded, a warming trend followed the heavy rain event, where temperatures warmed to the 70s, with Hondo reaching 80 on the 21st and Del Rio 82 on the 22nd. In wake of the wet conditions and cold ground, fog formed more easily at night and in the early mornings, bringing more foggy nights and mornings in January. A cold front pushed through the area on Saturday January 23rd, bringing windy and very dry conditions. The dryness the weekend of the 23rd and 24th contrasted greatly from the wet and soggy conditions a week earlier. South winds brought more humidity and warmer conditions on Monday the 25th and Tuesday the 26th. Wet and rainy conditions returned the 28th, as another storm system approached from the west. As this storm system moved closer to South Central Texas, it brought a round of locally heavy rain, with thunderstorms the night of the 28th to the morning of Friday the 29th. The thunderstorms also brought strong wind gusts between 30 and 55 mph and some hail. A cold front accompanied the thunderstorms the night of the 28th, bringing much colder temperatures on Friday the 29th. Brief periods of snow flurries were observed over the northern Hill Country the morning of January 29th in Kerr and Gillespie counties. Just a month earlier on December 29th, there was also reports of a mix of winter precipitation, mainly sleet, over the Hill Country and east to adjacent parts of Central and South Central Texas from Austin to San Antonio. Drier and colder weather followed late Friday morning and afternoon the 29th through Saturday the 30th. The sunny and cold conditions on the 30th were followed by cloudiness and cold on Sunday the 31st.

The trend of more rain than usual in the Fall, paused briefly in December, and then returned in January 2010. January 2010 ended as the 4th wettest January at Del Rio (1906 to 2010), the 10th wettest at San Antonio (1871 to 2010), the 14th wettest January at Austin Bergstrom (1943 to 2010), and the 32nd wettest at Austin Mabry (1856 to 2010).

The period from September 2009 to January 2010 was the 2nd wettest September to January at San Antonio since 1871. The wettest September to January periods at San Antonio from 1871 to 2010 follow.

1. Sep. 1874 to Jan. 1875 28.50
2. Sep. 2009 to Jan. 2010 26.71
3. Sep. 1967 to Jan. 1968 26.48

The period from September 2009 to January 2010 was the 15th wettest September to January at Austin Mabry since 1856. The wettest September to January periods at Austin Mabry from 1856 to 2010 follow.

1. Sep. 1913 to Jan. 1914 35.57
2. Sep. 1923 to Jan. 1924 31.37
3. Sep. 1874 to Jan. 1875 28.42
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15. Sep. 2009 to Jan. 2010 22.44

The wettest September to January at Austin from September 1913 to January 1914 included the 7th wettest Fall in 1913 at Austin, followed by a flood in early December 1913. December 1913 was the wettest December and 3rd wettest month at Austin, with 16.14 inches of rain.

The period from September 2009 to January 2010 was the 35th wettest September to January at Del Rio since 1906. The wettest September to January periods at Del from 1906 to 2010 follow.

1. Sep. 1930 to Jan. 1931 18.74
2. Sep. 1964 to Jan. 1965 18.67
3. Sep. 1969 to Jan. 1970 17.07
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35. Sep. 2009 to Jan. 2010 8.27